

An Important Immunization Update on Hib Disease and Hib Vaccine

Cases of invasive H.Flu type B disease have been reported:

Minnesota has seen an increase in *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) cases in children younger than 3 years of age. In 2008, there were five (5) confirmed cases of Hib, including one (1) death. This serious disease has been uncommon since routine use of Hib vaccine began over 15 years ago. (MMWR January 30, 2009/58(03); 58-60)

Potential reasons for the return of this disease include decreased Hib vaccine supply, increased carriage of Hib, and an increase in children who are not vaccinated due to parent refusal.

What Can Your Practice Do?

1. Have an adequate Hib vaccine supply

The entire country has been in a Hib vaccine shortage since December, 2007. This shortage is expected to last into mid-2009. CDC states that there are adequate supplies of Hib vaccine to provide doses for the primary series for all children who need them.

- a) Contact your local health department if you do not have enough doses of Hib vaccine (private or Vaccines for Children VFC stock) to complete the primary series at 2 months, 4 months and 6 months of age for all children. For additional information about the current Hib vaccination schedule see www.michigan.gov/immunize under Provider Information materials. Look for the "Updated Hib Interim Vaccination Schedule."

 - A "primary dose" of Hib vaccine is 2 doses of PedvaxHib® or Comvax® (hepB/PedvaxHib) vaccine or 3 doses of ActHIB® or Pentacel® (DTaP/IPV/ActHib) vaccine administered before the first birthday
 - A "booster dose" of Hib is the final dose at age 12-15 months following a completed primary series. This dose should be deferred for all healthy children (non American Indian or Alaskan native)
 - A "catch-up dose" is a dose of Hib vaccine that is needed for those children 7-59 months of age who have not completed their primary series.

- b) Recall children for any missing **primary doses** of Hib vaccine. In order to complete a primary series on time, monitor your practice closely. Consider a recall for children who are 6 months but not yet 12 months of age for Hib vaccine. See the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) provider training materials at www.mcir.org on how to create and do recalls or contact your MCIR regional office.

Recall Outreach Notices

Person Reports **VIM** Rem/Rec My Site Admin

Create Reminder Create Recall Retrieve/Confirm Results Create Reports

Target Date: 02/04/2009 Description: HIB Recall 6-12 mo

Letter Type

☒ Comprehensive ☐ Simple

Generate notices based on age of person

People of age at least 6 but not yet of age 12 months years

Generate notices based on options

☐ Use only patient roster Migrants Exclude

Generate notices based on vaccine series and dose within series

Vaccine Series Hib Dose Number

Generate notices based on geography

ZIP Code

Generate notices based on last administered shot date during the following period

Starting Date Ending Date

Provider Message

According to our records your child needs a dose of Hib vaccine. Hib is a very serious disease that can cause meningitis, pneumonia and severe throat infections that make it hard to breathe.

Add Site Name and Phone Number for patient contact information here.

Maximum people to be included in the result 300

Submit Cancel

Sample Text for a Hib Primary Series Recall:
According to our records your child needs a dose of Hib vaccine. Hib is a very serious disease that can cause meningitis, pneumonia and severe throat infections that make it hard to breathe.

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2. Be on the alert for any invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) disease. There may be increased carriage due to the deferral of booster doses and the lack of a complete primary series in some children.
 - Report any cases of invasive Hib disease to your local health department.
3. Review the records of children who have refused vaccines.
 - Encourage parents to reconsider their decision not to give Hib vaccine.
 - Document when a parent refuses vaccines in the medical record. An example "Refusal to Vaccinate" form can be found in the childhood section of the 2009 AIM Provider tool kit and www.aimtoolkit.org

How is Michigan Doing?

In 2008, there were two (2) cases of invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) disease. One of the cases reported was in an unimmunized child.

As of 1/22/2009, a review of Hib vaccine coverage levels in MCIR for infants 7 to 11 months of age demonstrates that we are missing opportunities to give infants their complete primary series of Hib vaccine.

- Only 55.7% of children had received 3 doses or more doses of Hib vaccine compared to
- 68.8% of children in this age group had received 3 or more doses of DTaP and
- 65.7% of children in this age group had been given 3 or more doses of PCV7

Looking for Additional Information?

For more information on Hib and Hib-containing vaccines, go to the Michigan Department of Community Health website at www.michigan.gov/immunize and look under Provider Information materials. **Handouts for Use in Providers' Offices** include:

- Tips for Medical Offices When Starting to Use Pentacel During the Hib Shortage (12/09/2008)
- Updated Hib Interim Vaccination Schedule (10/27/2008)
- Quick Reference to Using Combination Vaccines (11/25/2008)
- Always Reconstitute Vaccines with the Correct Diluent (11/20/2008)

For more information on using MCIR to recall children missing doses of vaccines go to the MCIR website at www.mcir.org. Look for the Reminder/Recall manual under provider training materials. Contact information for MCIR regional offices can be found here too.

For more information regarding the Hib vaccine shortage go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines.